

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 249210, SENT USDEL SECRETARY, INFO
BANGKOK, GENEVA, HONG KONG, PARIS, VIENTIANE, USUN, OCTOBER
20:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 249210 TOSEC 160101

E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: CASC, SREF, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

1. SUMMARY: PRG ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF AMERICANS AND OTHER
FOREIGNERS TO TAKE PLACE IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER
WITH ASSISTANCE OF UNHCR. END SUMMARY.

2. HANOI 20 OCTOBER ANNOUNCED THAT PRG "AGREES TO ALLOW
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FOREIGNERS WHO COULD NOT LEAVE SVN IN VIEW OF HOSTILITIES

TO REPATRIATE NOW ACCORDING TO THEIR WISH." STATEMENT (IN ENGLISH) REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO "A NUMBER OF US AND OTHER FOREIGNERS, MOSTLY MISSIONARIES," AND SAID UNHCR HAS AGREED TO ASSIST IN REPATRIATION, WHICH "MAY BE CARRIED OUT IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER." (FULL TEXT BELOW).

3. UNHCR SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN (IN NY FOR UNGA) TELEPHONEDD/HA WILSON TO CONFIRM SAME INFORMATION, WHICH UNHCR RECEIVED BY LETTER FROM PRG OFFICE IN GENEVA. UNHCR IS ALSO ISSUING PRESS RELEASE IN NY, TEXT BELOW.

4. HANOI STATEMENT'S REFERENCE TO "MISSIONARIES" INDICATES THAT IT COVERS THE CHRISTIAN AND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE MISSIONARIES AND OTHER AMERICANS (AMONG THEM A USAID OFFICIAL) CAPTURED MARCH 10 AT BAN ME THUOT. WE UNDERSTAND UNHCR IN GENEVA HAS RECEIVED A LIST OF NAMES OF THOSE TO BE RELEASED, WHICH WE EXPECT TO HAVE BY TOMORROW. WORDING OF STATEMENT MAY ALSO COVER THE FIFTY OR SO OTHER AMERICANS REMAINING IN SOUTH VIETNAM, WHO HAVE BEEN DENIED EXIT. UNHCR TOLD US IN CONFIDENCE THAT THE PRISONER GR UP IS ALREADY IN HANOI AND THAT REPATRIATION IS EXPECTED TO TAKE PLACE VIA VIENTIANE.

5. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN TO USE OCTOBER 21: BEGIN TEXT. WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT BROADCAST FROM HANOI AND CONFIRMED BY THE UNHCR. WE WELCOME THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE EARLY REPATRIATION OF ALL AMERICANS WHO WISH TO LEAVE VIET-NAM. END TEXT. IF ASKED IF THIS IS LINKED TO REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE FROM GUAM, WE PLAN TO SAY WE HAVE NO BASIS FOR ANY SPECULATION ON THAT.

6. WE ARE INFORMING FAMILIES AND CONCERNED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, INCLUDING HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MISSING PERSONS OF PRG AND UNHCR ANNOUNCEMENTS.

7. FOLLOWING IS UNHCR ANNOUNCEMENT: BEGIN TEXT. UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., OCT. 20 - THE UNHCR, SADRUDDIN AGA KHAN, HAS TODAY RECEIVED THROUGH THE LIAISON IN GENEVA OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRGRSVN THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION FROM THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITY ON THE SUBJECT OF REPATRIATION OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FOREIGNERS AT PRESENT IN VIETNAM:

-- ,BEFORE 30 APRIL 1975, THE DAY OF THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF SVN, A CERTAIN NUMBER OF AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS, MOSTLY MISSIONARIES, WERE NOT ABLE TO LEAVE SVN ON ACCOUNT OF THE MILITARY SITUATION. THE PRG IS NOW RESPONDING TO

THEIR ASPIRATIONS TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN.
THE UNHCR HAS ACCEPTED TO CARRY OUT THEIR REPATRIATION.
THE OPERATION COULD TAKE PLACE AT THE END OF OCTOBER OR
AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER 1975."

-- THE HIGH COMMISSIONER AND THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES
HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH ON THIS SUBJECT FOR SOME TIME. IN THE
CONTEXT OF HIS GOOD OFFICES FUNCTION THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
HAS ACCEPTED TO CARRY OUT THIS HUMANITARIAN ACTION. THE
TRANSPORT OF THIS GROUP WILL TAKE PLACE FROM HANOI.

-- IT IS RECALLED THAT THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE HAS
ALREADY ASSISTED IN THE PAST THROUGH ITS AIRLIFT, FROM
SAIGON TO VIENTIANE, IN THE REPATRIATION OF SEVERAL HUNDRED
FOREIGNERS FROM SVN TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN. END TEXT.

8. FOLLOWING IS HANOI ANNOUNCEMENT: BEGIN TEXT. PRG
AGREES TO ALLOW REPATRIATION OF FOREIGNERS (HANOI VNA IN
ENGLISH 1610 GMT 20 OCT 75) -- THE PROVISIONAL REV
LUTION-
ARY GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM AGREES TO
ALLOW FOREIGNERS WHO COULD NOT LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM IN VIEW
OF HOSTILITIES TO REPATRIATE NOW ACCORDING TO THEIR WISH,
ACCORDING TO LIBERATION PRESS AGENCY (LPA).

-- IN A REPORT TODAY, THE AGENCY MADE KNOWN THAT A NUMBER
OF U.S. AND OTHER FOREIGNERS, MOSTLY MISSIONARIES, COULD
NOT LEAVE SOUTH VIETNAM IN VIEW OF HOSTILITIES PRIOR TO
APRIL 30, 1975, THE DAY OF TOTAL LIBERATION OF SOUTH
VIETNAM. NOW THE PRGRSVN AGREES TO ALLOW THE SAID PERSONS
TO REPATRIATE ACCORDING TO THEIR WISH. THE OFFICE OF THE
U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HAS ACCEPTED TO
ASSIST IN THEIR REPATRIATION, LPA SAID. THIS MAY BE CARRIED
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OUT IN LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER THIS YEAR, THE AGENCY
ADDED. END TEXT.
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